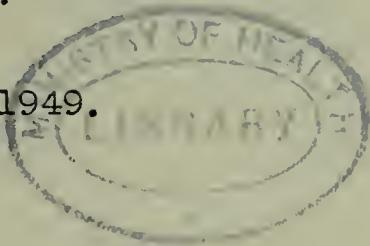


LIBRARY

Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st June 1949.



To the Chairman and Members,  
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

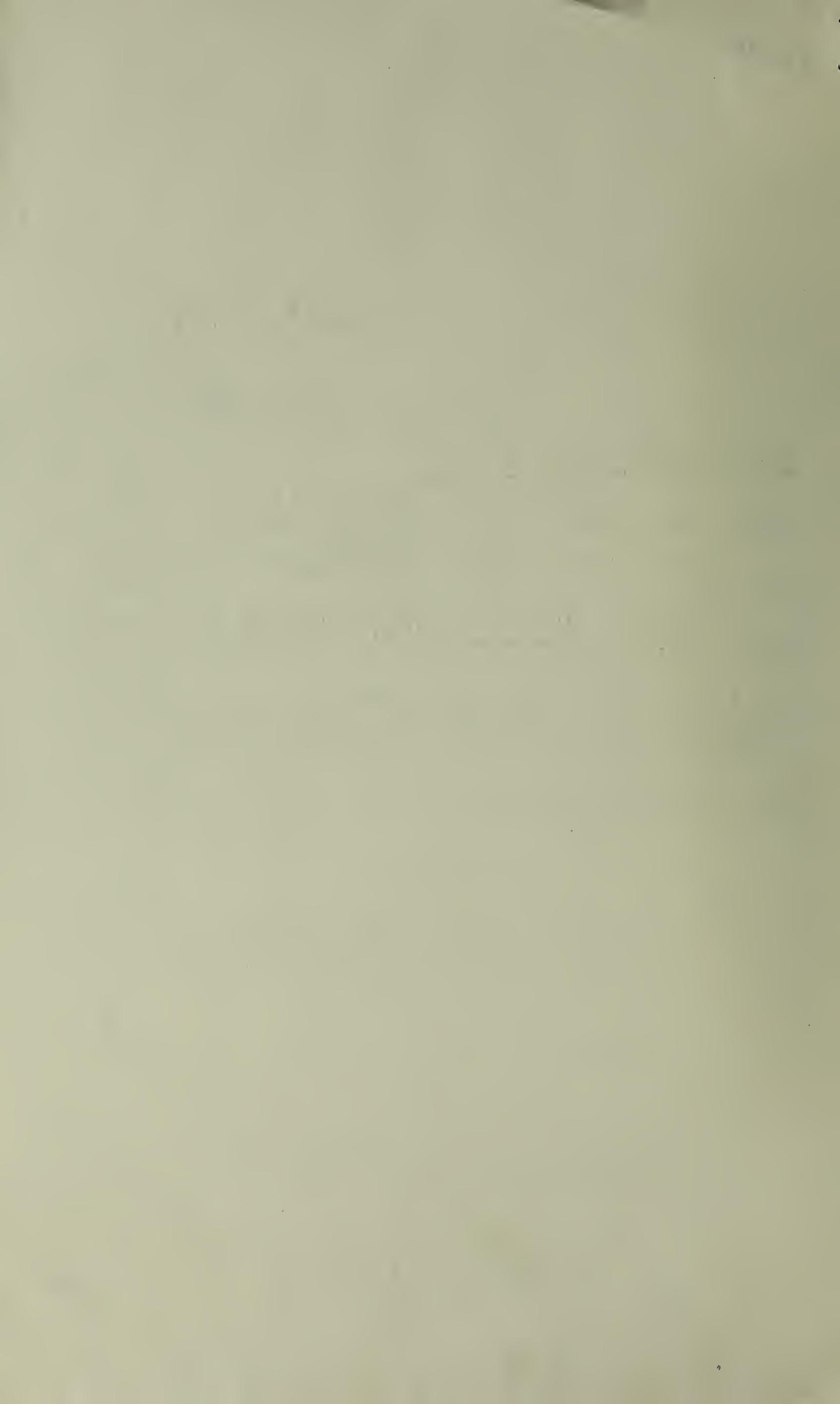
I am indebted to Mr. Bean, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss L. Davidge, for her efficient services throughout the year.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

*John D. Beaumont*  
Medical Officer of Health.



SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1948.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.  
Rateable value - £56,696  
Production of a penny rate - £223.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 6,798.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	Comparative figures for
Total (114)	63	51 }	(a) North Dorset (b) England & Wales.
Legitimate	60	45 }	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	3	6 }	resident pop: = 16.0 17.7 17.9

STILLBIRTHS

Total (2)	2	-	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.2 0.4 0.42
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DEATHS

Total (81)	40	41	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.9 11.5 10.8
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Deaths in infants under 1 year	3	-	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 26.3 24.6 34.0
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Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	Nil
" " diarrhoea in infants	-	Nil
" " road traffic accidents	-	Nil
" " other violent causes	-	Nil

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The National Health Service Act came into operation in July when the provision of hospital and specialist medical services became the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and the private medical practitioner service became the responsibility of the Local Executive Councils.

The County Council as local health authority under the Act became responsible for ambulance arrangements in the district, and for home nursing facilities. The domiciliary midwifery, child welfare and the school medical services remained the responsibility of the Dorset County Council as local health authority.

The laboratory services and the tuberculosis and venereal disease services previously provided by the Dorset County Council became the responsibility of the Ministry of Health through their hospital service.

The change over of functions and responsibilities in so far as the district is concerned appears to have taken place smoothly and without dislocation.

No complaints have been made to me suggesting that patients have not, under the Act, received any necessary medical treatment available to them before the Act became operative, and my general impression is that the Act has proved beneficial to the community.

## C. Environmental Health Services.

### Sanitary circumstances of the district -

#### 1. SANITARY STAFF.

C.E. Bean, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.  
H. Shepherd, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. Sanitary Inspector for meat  
inspection.

### Clerical Staff -

3 clerks (part-time)

#### 2. WATER SUPPLY.

No new major works of importance were carried out during the year. New connections were made as under:-

(a) domestic use.....6  
(b) agricultural purposes.....Nil  
(c) other purposes.....2

1818 houses in the Urban district are provided with a supply direct into the houses, 80 houses obtain their supply by means of standpipes.

The supply has remained adequate in quantity throughout the year and the quality from each source has remained satisfactory. 84 bacteriological and 2 chemical examinations were carried out on the supplies during the year. Water is subjected to filtration and chlorination.

#### 3. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

No major works were carried out during the year.

Arising out of the Consultant's report, the Council are installing an electric pump at the Sewage Disposal Works in order principally to deal with 'off-peak' and night flows.

#### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. The local authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping. The Council have a proposal to purchase a further five acres of land for future use in this connection.

(b) Salvage. The Council's scheme provides for a fortnightly collection of salvage from householders with a weekly collection in the main shopping centre. The amounts of salvage collected during the year are as follows:-

	T.	C.	Q.
Paper	92.	13.	1.
Pig Food	30.	19.	0.
Rags	1.	12.	1.
Metals	9.	8.	0.
Bones	2.	12.	0.
String		2.	3.
	<u>137.</u>	<u>7.</u>	<u>2.</u>

(c) Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

#### 5. RIVERS & STREAMS POLLUTION.

17 samples were taken at the outlet to the river from the Council's sewage disposal works. The samples were submitted for a B.O.D. estimation and all proved satisfactory. One sample was submitted for complete chemical analysis.

## 6. SHOPS ACT.

No. of inspections carried out.....	4
No. of defects found.....	3
No. of informal notices servd.....	3
No. of informal notices complied with.....	3

## 7. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	41	30	4
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	17	8	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	12	8	Nil
<b>Total -</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>	
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Sanitary Conveniences -		
Unsuitable or defective	4	4
<b>Total -</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

No. of outworkers - 59.

In co-operation with the National Fire Service, fire safety precautions were revised in all the factories during the year.

## 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Only informal action was necessary during the year.

Factories concerned appear to have experienced difficulty with regard to the size and quality of the coal received by them.

## 9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district available for use of the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the local authority and is subject to chlorination.

## 10. CAMPING SITES.

Informal action was taken during the year in respect to moveable dwellings. Licences were granted in connection with 2 caravan sites.

## 11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

## 12. RATS & MICE.

The scheme operated by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee has worked satisfactorily during the year. Contracts have been entered into with the Urban District Council for the regular inspection and treatment of the controlled refuse tip, sewers and sewerage works, and with numerous traders for the regular treatment of their trade premises.

### 13. RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 - 1922.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

### 14. SCHOOLS.

Sanitary inspection of schools and school canteens in the district were carried out during the year.

### 15. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

(1) (a) No. of houses inspected during the year.....	48
(b) No. of inspections made.....	61
(2) (1) No. of informal notices served.....	12
{2} No. of informal notices complied with.....	12
{3} No. of statutory notices served.....	Nil
{4} No. of statutory notices complied with.....	Nil
(3) (1) No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936.....	Nil
(2) Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -	
(a) Demolition orders made.....	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure.....	Nil
(ii) re-conditioning.....	Nil
(c) Other action.....	Nil
(4) <u>Overcrowding.</u>	
(a) No. of cases of 'Statutory overcrowding' found and reported to Local Authority.....	15
(b) No. of cases of overcrowding abated.....	10
(c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.....	Nil
Total number of working class houses in district.....	1200

### HOUSING ACT 1936.

I have to remind you that there is a statutory requirement under Section 5 of the above Act and the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, for you to arrange for regular inspection of the dwelling houses in your district, and I have to draw your attention to the fact that such inspections have not been carried out in your district during the past 10 years. The inspections which have been made and reported to you have almost invariably been as a result of a complaint received from the occupier or other person with regard to the condition of the house. It is not possible, without having a complete picture of the housing conditions in the town, to plan adequately for the future or to take advantage of such facilities as the newly proposed Housing Bill may offer in connection with bringing sub-standard property up to present day requirements. It is my hope that serious consideration will be given to the statutory requirements so that the opportunity will not be lost to improve the housing conditions of the district.

### (5) Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	<u>Temporary Prefab.</u>	<u>Traditional Type.</u>
(a) During 1948	-	44
(b) Post-war	40	56

One new house was provided by private enterprise and a number of houses were converted from one dwelling into several dwellings by private enterprise.

No. of houses held under requisition at the end of the year.....10  
 No. of houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had  
     been made, occupied under licence at the end of the year.....8  
 No. of families re-housed during the year by the local authority.....71

During the year 22 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 36 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

## 16. INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk - (a) Milk & Dairies Order 1926.

No. of farms in the district registered for milk production.....	9
No. of farms producing designated milk -	
(a) Tuberculin Tested.....	4
(b) Accredited.....	4
No. of farms producing non-designated milk.....	5
No. registered dairymen (cowkeepers and milk sellers).....	13
No. registered as wholesale.....	7
"    "    "  retailers.....	3
"    "    "  wholesale and retailers.....	3

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 - 1941.

No. of licences granted during the year -

Tuberculin Tested.....	1
Pasteurised.....	2
Supplementary.....	1

(c) Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

No. of inspections made during the year..... 30  
No. of cases in which contravention of the regulations were found..... Nil  
No. of prosecutions undertaken..... Nil

(d) Samples.

No. of samples taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested }	
Accredited	8
Pasteurised	10
Ungraded	23

## 2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938.....	14
No. of such premises inspected during the year.....	14
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938.....	16
No. of such premises registered in respect to -	

(a) Ice Cream.....	14
(b) Sausages & prepared meats.....	2

No. of such premises inspected during the year.....8  
No. of samples of ice cream taken and submitted for Methylene  
Blue test.....107

Results -	<u>No.</u>
Grade 1	50
Grade 2	15
Grade 3	22
Grade 4	20

Meat Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses -

Carcasses inspected & condemned.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed	1540	1453	1800	40
Number inspected	1540	1453	1800	40
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	12	7	3	2
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	678	14	187	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	44.80	1.45	10.56	25.0

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcase condemned	30	-	-	3
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	359	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	24.93	-	-	12.5

(b) Butchers and other shops -

Quantities condemned -

114 tins Tinned Meat - 684 lbs.

Other Foods -

Quantities condemned -

Tinned Milk	31 tins	Tinned Mussels	1 tin
Tinned Tomatoes	3 tins	Tinned Baked Beans	10 tins
Tinned Plums	4 tins	Tinned Jam & Marmalade	3 tins
Tinned Pork Sausage, Lunch & Brawn	5 tins	Macedoine	1 tin
Tinned Peas	9 tins	Carrots	1 tin
Tinned Fish	10 tins	Pitted Dates	71 lbs.
Tinned Grapefruit Juice	6 tins	Rabbit	1 tin
Tinned Meat & Paste	13 tins	Bacon	2 tins
Tinned Soup	39 tins	Spaghetti Pearls	112 lbs.
Pollock	6 st.	Pigs Trotters	28 lbs.
Oranges	3 tins	Sugar	92 lbs.
		Fowlers Syrup	1 tin.

17. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out..... 16  
 No. of disinfections carried out..... 6

18. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings).....	56
" " " Informal notices served.....	12
" " " Informal notices complied with.....	13
" " " Statutory notices served.....	Nil
" " " Statutory notices complied with.....	Nil
No. of prosecutions.....	Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

Incidence -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Measles	6	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Lobar Pneumonia	1	-	-
Whooping cough	3	-	-
Meningococcal			
Meningitis	1	-	-
Scarletina	1	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	1	-	-

Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases Notified Respiratory. Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Deaths Respiratory. Non-Respiratory.</u>
8	1

2 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis occurred amongst the clerical staff of the Urban District Council. As a precautionary measure the chests of the remaining members of the staff working in the Council Offices were x-rayed. The results proved negative and therefore satisfactory.

It is happy to record in this connection that the Council took a wise step in transferring its offices to new premises which are more congenial and more healthy than those previously occupied.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

